

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PATHFINDER

Find Out About Your Medications



This pathfinder provides information in support of the Be Well Informed @ your library program. You can read more about the program, events, and access this and other resources on the Web site at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/news-events/bewell.shtml>



Information In Books | **Library Subscription Databases** | **Information on the Internet**

Information in Books

Search the Library's Catalog under the subject heading Drugs. Information about herbal remedies can be found by searching under the subject Herbs – Therapeutic Use.

Selected Titles

- "The Complete German Commission E monographs: Therapeutic Guide to Herbal Medicines." 1998 R615.321/Complete
- "Complete Guide to Prescription & Non-Prescription Drugs." 2004. 615.1/Griffith
- "Consumer Drug Reference." 2004. R615.1/Consumer
- "Diccionario de especialidades farmacéuticas: DEF." 615.1/Diccionario
- "The Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs." 2005. 615.1/Essential
- "PDR for Herbal Medicines." 2004. R615.321/PDR
- "The Pill Book," 11th ed. 2004 615/1/Pill
- "Physicians' Desk Reference": PDR. 2005. R615.1/Physicians. Some content is online at <http://www.gettingwell.com/>
- "Smart Medicine: How to Buy the Prescription Drugs You Need at a Price You Can Afford" 2004 ON ORDER
- "Worst Pills, Best Pills: A Consumer's Guide to Avoiding Drug-Induced Death or Illness." 2005. 615.704/Worst

Library Subscription Databases

To access these databases, use our Catalog & Databases page. Subscription databases are accessible at all San Diego Public Library locations and remotely with a valid Library Card. If you need help, ask a Librarian or Library staff member.



Clinical Pharmacology

Drug monographs for all U.S. approved, new, investigational prescription drugs, herbal and nutritional supplements, over-the-counter products.

AltHealth Watch

170+ alternative medicine and complementary health magazines and journals.

Health and Wellness Resource Center

Health and medical information for everyone from periodicals, reference books, and pamphlet sources.

Information on the Internet

Drugs @ FDA

Lists most brand name and generic drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration since 1939. Includes prescription and over-the-counter human drugs currently available in the United States, as well as discontinued drugs. Browsable or searchable by drug name, active ingredient, company, FDA action date, and more. If you have more questions, send drug questions to DRUGINFO@CDER.FDA.GOV or call about new or existing drugs at 888-INFO-FDA (888-463-6332).

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm>

Prescription Drug and Other Assistance Programs

Including Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards. This site allows you to compare the price of various medical prescription drugs. This database produces a list of prices, sorted by prescription card program, from both local and mail-order pharmacies. Also includes eligibility questions and links to related resources. From the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<http://www.medicare.gov/AssistancePrograms/>

Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs

Collection of reports that evaluate prescription medicines used for common conditions such as high cholesterol, arthritis, and heartburn. The reports look at efficacy, safety, and price to recommend the best medicines. Reports also provide a general overview of the drugs and cost comparisons of the generic and brand-name drugs.

<http://www.crbestbuydrugs.org/>

Drug Digest

Consumer health information about drugs, herbs, and supplements. Features include a page to check for drug interactions, a glossary, a drug comparison page, a treatment options page, and a "Medication Checklist" of "facts you should know about each of your prescriptions."

<http://www.drugdigest.org/>



MEDLINEplus: Drug Information

Information on thousands of prescription and over-the-counter medications is provided through two drug resources – MedMaster, a product of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the USP DI Advice for the Patient, a product of the United States Pharmacopeia. Browse generic or brand name of drugs from an alphabetical index.
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginformation.html>

FDA Drug Approvals List

Updated weekly. Gives approval date, trade name, dosage form, drug company, active ingredient and whether over-the-counter or prescription.
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/da/da.htm>

Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has developed this publication to answer questions about the consequences of abusing commonly prescribed medications. Covers commonly abused prescription drugs, pain relievers, depressants and stimulants. NIDA is a division of the National Institutes of Health.
<http://www.nida.nih.gov/ResearchReports/Prescription/Prescription.html>

PDR.net: Getting Well Network

Consumer information from the Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR) Company. Drug information is written in lay terms and is based on the FDA-approved drug information found in the PDR. Clinical trials provides information services featuring listings of drugs in clinical research, clinical trials, clinical trial results, FDA approvals, and more.
<http://www.gettingwell.com/>

Recalls.gov

Lists federal recalls of defective, hazardous, or unsafe products. Use the site "to obtain the latest recall information, to report a dangerous product, or to learn important safety tips. Some material available in Spanish.
<http://www.recalls.gov/>

Substandard and Counterfeit Medicines

This facts sheet provides background information and statistics on pharmaceuticals whose composition and ingredients do not meet the correct scientific specifications and medicine that is deliberately or fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source. From the World Health Organization.
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs275/en/>

Buying Medical Products Online

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration created this page, which offers information to help consumers determine whether a site that sells drugs and other medical products is legitimate. It also tells consumers how to spot health fraud and explains the problems associated with using



foreign sites. News releases provide the latest information about the FDA's efforts to protect consumers using these sites.

<http://www.fda.gov/oc/buyonline/>

RxList

Searchable by drug name, keyword, and imprint code (great for identifying pills). Gives the brand, generic, and category for more than 4,500 drugs in English and more than 3,000 in Spanish. The site also contains Taber's Medical Encyclopedia, with more than 53,000 definitions as well as information on some major Western herbs, Chinese herbal remedies, and homeopathics.

<http://www.rxlist.com/>

Things You Should Know About Purchasing Medicines From Outside the United States

This Web site, from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, outlines potential concerns with pharmaceutical products purchased from an Internet site, from a storefront business that offers to order medicine for you, or during visits outside the United States. Addresses quality assurance, labeling, counterfeit potential, untested substances, and related topics.

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/border.htm>

SafeMedication.com

This Web site is from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. "Medications and You" covers alternative medicines; antibiotics; medication safety, use, and trends; treatment tips; and vaccines. "How to Administer" explains the best ways to use drops, ointments, inhalers, and suppositories. Type a drug name in the search box and find out how a medicine should be used, special precautions, side effects, and other information.

<http://www.safemedication.com/>

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Searchable directory of patient assistance programs (offering free and low-cost medicines) sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. Program information is available through the "application wizard."

<https://www.helpingpatients.org/>

CenterWatch Clinical Trials Listing Service

Information related to clinical trials, such as a listing of more than 41,000 industry- and government-sponsored clinical trials as well as new drug therapies recently approved by the FDA. A resource for patients interested in participating in clinical trials and for research professionals.

<http://www.centerwatch.com/>

ClinicalTrials.gov

Information about thousands of clinical trials for a wide range of diseases and conditions. There are also pages that explain clinical trials and why they may be helpful, what is involved in participating, appropriate questions to ask, and the process of new drug development. There are also links to drug and health information sites. For both health professionals and lay users.

<http://clinicaltrials.gov/>





Be Well Informed @ your library



The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) and Walgreens have joined together to provide consumer health education and promote libraries as sources of accurate, reliable health information. The Be Well Informed @ your library [project provides grants of \\$25,000 to ten library systems](#) to present educational seminars between November 2004 and November 2005. San Diego Public Library has been selected as part of this national program. [Read the full press release...](#)

- [Be Well Informed @ your library - Schedule of Events](#)
- Selected Bibliography and Internet Resources (to come)
- [ALA Web Site for Be Well Informed @ your library](#)

SDPL has been selected as one of 10 library systems in the nation to participate in the “Be Well Informed @ your library” campaign. This national health information initiative will focus on the 90 million American adults who have difficulty understanding and using health information. The program will combine the partners’ community health resources to help guide the more than 40 percent of consumers who feel overwhelmed by the healthcare information available today.

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